



info•bits

City of Torrance

winter•2013

Fleet Services & City Warehouse *Keeping the City Moving!*



If you are responsible for ordering supplies for your department or drive anything from a lawnmower to a trash truck for the City, you are probably aware of the versatile, resourceful and talented people of Fleet Services & City Warehouse, a division of the General Services department. Thirty-two employees operate in shifts from 6:30 a.m. to midnight, keeping City vehicles running safely and efficiently and providing all manner of supplies to every City department.

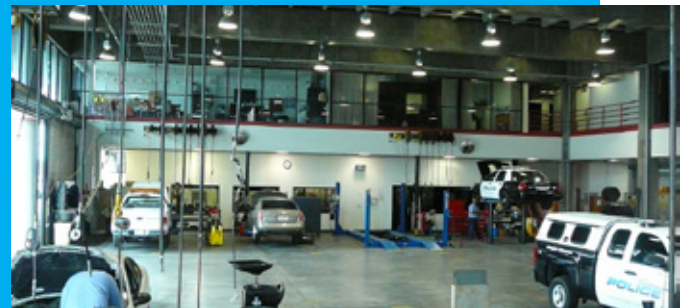
City Warehouse

"We are like a combination of O'Reilly Auto Parts, Home Depot and Smart & Final," said Ron Kookan, Warehouse Supervisor. Aisles of shelves in the two story, 10,000 square foot warehouse hold over 7,800 vehicle parts and automotive supplies, as well as a comprehensive inventory of water stock for Public Works and custodial products. "We stock anything that more than one department requires" said Ron. "If you need it, we've got it," echoes Clerk Typist Cindy Russell.

Larry Basile has had some challenging parts requests in his twenty-five years on the job. "We get an obsolete part request about once a month. I search the internet, ebay, craigslist, junkyards and other municipalities." When a rare part is located, Melissa Sandoval is usually sent to retrieve it. "We've both had the experience of arriving at the parts source and removing the part ourselves," said Sandoval.



Warehouse Staff - Larry Basile, Auto Parts Storekeeper/Buyer, Ron Kookan, Warehouse Supervisor, Cindy Russell, Typist Clerk, Melissa Sandoval, Delivery Driver/Clerk, Ray Monson, Storekeeper for water and irrigation. (Not pictured, David Inez, Night Shift Storekeeper.)



Up to eight cars can be accommodated in the auto section of the main shop floor

Los Angeles native, Ernie Crespo, began his career in public transit when he chose to work in the student run transit department at the University of California Davis (UCD). "I chose to drive buses because it was the highest paying job on campus," said Crespo. Although he graduated with a degree in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, he found his first job at Long Beach Transit as a training and development supervisor. "I'd spent five years at UCD driving buses, promoted to supervisor, worked in the maintenance shop and then as a driving instructor," he said. It also helped that he could live at home in West LA while he worked in Long Beach developing creative multi-media driver's training curriculum.

Three years later, Crespo moved to the City of Santa Monica's (Big Blue Bus) as a Transit Services Superintendent. At the tender age of twenty-six, he was younger than nearly all of the three hundred drivers and supervisors who worked for him. Early in the seven years he spent at Santa Monica he fell in love with public transit and gave up plans to go to medical school. "I learned the administrative side of the business: labor relations, negotiating with unions, meeting with community groups, risk management, human resources and the legal issues. It was challenging but also great!

Ernie Crespo

*Operations Manager
Torrance Transit*



I knew I was never leaving the industry."

Late in 2012, Crespo learned of the opening for an Operations Manager in Torrance Transit (TT). He was hired and began work December 4, 2012. "I was happy to meet great people in the department who helped me feel comfortable while learning the TT way. We all share an interest in raising the level of efficiency and increasing ridership for the department," he said.

Ernie Crespo is bilingual (Spanish) and lives in Del Rey with his wife of two years, Maria. Weekends, you can find him at the softball field playing shortstop, pitching, or in the outfield on a team of family and friends or in the audience of a great musical theater production. For the last five years, Crespo has played in the World Series of Poker where he has "done well" and still likes to keep medical books on the coffee table for some light reading. How's that for well rounded!

Growing up in Hawthorne, California, Laura Mapes dreamed of being a firefighter. She pursued that dream serving in the Fire Explorer Program in the Hawthorne Fire Department and then in the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The experiences convinced her she was on the right career track. "I've always been compelled to help people and to contribute to my community," said Mapes.

Mapes graduated from El Camino with an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and then became a firefighter at Hughes Aircraft Company. While working full time, Laura went on to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Fire Protection Administration and Technology at California State University Los Angeles. Mapes has served in the Fire Service for twenty-seven years, where she attained the rank of Division Chief/Fire Marshal. Laura has also served as a Fire Inspector, Assistant Fire Marshal and Captain/Deputy Fire Mar-

Laura Mapes

Fire Prevention Manager



shal. Laura also served as a Reserve Police Officer for the City of Hermosa Beach.

Until recently, Mapes was the fire inspector at Stanford University and lived in the Bay Area with husband, John, a Fire Marshal for Foster City and her eleven year-old son, Kevin. Laura and her family are in the process of relocating back to the South Bay. "Several of my Fire Prevention instructors at El Camino College were in charge of the Torrance Fire Prevention Division." "I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the people who taught me to do what I do."

Save the Date!
Service Awards Luncheon
Thursday, March 28, 2013

If you celebrated a multiple of five years anniversary with the City in 2012, you will be invited to the Service Awards Luncheon to be held in the Toyota Meeting Hall of the Cultural Arts Center. Be sure to join the fun of lunch with fellow honorees and opportunities to win great door prizes.

Human Resources – Phase 1 Remodeling

The Human Resources (formally Personnel) Building will undergo remodeling to make the public areas and restrooms more accessible and compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Work will be done in two phases, Phase I is slated to begin at the end of March, 2013 and be completed within three or four months. Phase I will focus on the front of the building that will get a facelift that includes changing the position of the public entryway door to face Torrance Boulevard. Facilities will be upgraded to support current technologies, create more small meeting rooms, and update electrical service and lighting. Staff will shift to space in the back of the building left vacant when Risk Management moved to the East Annex. A temporary public entry and reception area will be created at the north-west corner of the building (across from the main library).

The building was originally built in the 1950's and hasn't had much updating since then. Staff telephone extensions will remain the same during construction.

You can be notified when the new Info-Bits is online! Here's How...

An electronic service, eNotify allows anyone to receive updates on certain web pages. You can subscribe to Info-Bits and other city information updates by registering online at <http://www.torranceca.gov/20726.htm>. Once you have registered, you can choose from a menu of update notifications for various city web pages, including Info-Bits. Check the boxes to choose the information you would like to monitor and you will be emailed when the web pages are updated. Here is the process to sign up:

- Log In
- Click e-notify
- Click webpage subscription
- Under Human Resources is Retiree Resources
- Check Retiree Resources box
- Click save on bottom of page
- A message on top of page will say "Database updated successfully"
- Exit or log out

Torrance Origins *The History Behind the Acquisition & Naming of City Facilities*

"Charles H. Wilson Park"

By Michael George

In 1945, while the war in the Pacific still raged, 91 acres of prime industrial land in Torrance was put aside for the United States Navy Material Redistribution Center. What was to become SCROC, Wilson Park and a bit of Torrance High was an adjunct storage area for the Long Beach Naval Station.

Originally, the U.S. Naval Supply Depot, Torrance was to include a subdivision housing project to provide living space for the estimated 350 military families, over \$5,000,000 (1945 bucks) worth of steel and concrete buildings and spur rail tracks. Slowly, starting in late 50s, the depot was decommissioned until the last forty some acres were declared surplus in 1974.

A long fight ensued for the prime real estate. For a while there was even some talk of building a California State University, Torrance. U.S. Congressman, Charles H. Wilson, a Democrat representing the old 31st District was instrumental in negotiating a positive deal for the remaining land. In the end, the Navy did give the land to the city but a payment



Aerial view of the Navy Depot around 1960. Crenshaw is to the right while Torrance Blvd. is in the foreground. Note the oil wells north of the complex.

of \$250,000 was made for the twenty-one buildings left at the old depot site. Five years later, the park was officially named in Congressman's Wilson's honor.



We thank Michael George (photo at left) for his continued creative and interesting contributions to Info-Bits. In this issue, we begin a new series on the people behind the names, and the history of city facilities.)

Retirees - October 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013

Name	Title	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Randall Brooks	Fire Captain	12/17/2012	29 years
John Bushman	Fire Fighter	12/27/2012	22 years
Gerald Galaz	Lead Maintenance Worker	12/25/2012	33 years
Tony Gasset	Custodian	12/27/2012	20 years
Joe Griego	Water Service Technician II	12/26/2012	26 years
Ezekiel Hill	Environmental Quality Officer	10/18/2012	22 years
Jerald Lorenz	Senior Welder	12/28/2012	26 years
Robert Maag, Jr.	Senior Fire Inspector	10/8/2012	34 Years
Edward Maciel	Water Service Supervisor	12/27/2012	32 years
Willie Mc Clinton Jr.	Sanitation Equipment Operator	12/27/2012	27 years
Randy Peterson	Fire Captain	12/27/2012	32 years
Renard Ricks	Cable TV Operations Supervisor	12/28/2012	12 years
Katherine Scala	Typist Clerk	12/27/2012	11 years
Mimi Tedford	Environmental Quality Officer	12/27/2012	25 years
Emelita Villareal	Senior Administrative Assistant	12/15/2012	24 years
Gregory Vincent	Police Officer	12/19/2012	27 years

Promotions - October 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013

City Manager	Alexander Ortega	Police
Myisha Phillips	Senior Building Inspector	Thomas Besse
Cynthia Rosell		Brian Harris
Personnel Technician	Fire	Police Officer
	Mark Lyle	
City Treasurer	Fire Captain - 40 Hour	Jasmin Laster
Mafausta Abalayan		Secretary
Deputy City Treasurer	Christopher Huerta	
	Bryan Swenson	Transit
Community Development	Christopher Nader	Bruce Mendez
Scott Ogasawara	Fire Fighter	Equipment Attendant
Building Inspection Supervisor		

New Hires - October 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013

City Attorney's Office	Fire	Public Works
Elvira Mota	Christopher Huerta	Eric Hirota
Legal Secretary	Bryan Swenson	Vincent Stanojevic
	Christopher Nader	Michael Lewis
Community Development	Fire Fighter	Jerry Parsley
Christina Lang		Water Service Tech I
Planning Assistant	Laura Mapes	
	Fire Prevention Manager	Transit
Community Services		David Sanders
Stephanie Brown	Melissa Novak	Manuel Huitron
Carrie Wilson	Fire Prevention Specialist	Joaquin Fernandez
Library Assistant II		Equipment Attendant
	Toni Tersigni	
Finance	Typist Clerk II	Adolfo E. Crespo
Erin Aoki		Transit Manager -
Account Clerk	Police	Operations
	John Mansolino	
Mitzi Lai	Police Officer	
Accountant		
Philip Bradshaw		
Staff Assistant		

Health Bits from Kaiser Permanente



Celebrate Good Works

Celebrating accomplishments builds an environment in which people are inspired to do their best.

Recognition among co-workers "warms up" the workplace and makes it safe to take risks, be creative and participate fully:

- Maintain a 4:1 ratio for positive reinforcement vs. negative feedback. For every one negative piece of feedback, make sure you give four pieces of positive encouragement.
- Acknowledgment encourages a positive work environment.
- Recognize small successes as well as big ones.

Standard Insurance Workplace Possibilities Program

Do you struggle with chronic pain or discomfort at work? Standard Insurance's Workplace Possibilities Program may be the answer! The Workplace Possibilities Program is now available to City of Torrance employees at no charge to you, the employee! The program is designed to identify opportunities to keep employees who may be at risk of disability on the job and get those who go out on disability back to work sooner. With supportive medical documentation, the Workplace Possibilities Consultant can perform ergonomic evaluations, research and recommend devices that adapt to employees' needs, and consult on accommodations for mental and psychiatric conditions. If you have any questions or think you may qualify for the program, please contact Robert Weinmeister in Human Resources at 310-781-7586.

Fleet Services & City Warehouse

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Fleet Services

Fleet Services purchases and maintains most of the City's vehicles. Those still in warranty are sent to authorized vendors for service, while the rest are maintained and repaired by fourteen Mechanics and Senior Mechanics, four Equipment Attendants, and one Senior Welder. Light Duty Mechanics maintain vehicles from the smallest lawnmowers up to one ton trucks. Twenty areas are dedicated to servicing different sized vehicles.

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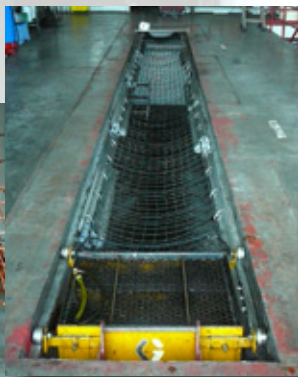
Day Shift Supervisor, Jeff Cryderman, hired into Fleet Services in 1980 as a Sr. Welder (shown here in the City welding stall). He started his career as a blacksmith/welder on his family farm in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Parts and pieces can be fabricated in the Welding Shop for vehicles and other repairs in the City like park barbeques, metal railings and more.

Anything over one ton is serviced by a Senior Mechanic, including fire engines and trash trucks. "Trash trucks are the hardest working vehicles in the City, and have the highest maintenance," said Jeff Cryderman, Fleet Services Supervisor. Most departments that require vehicles build a fund over time that is calculated to cover the cost of a replacement after a vehicle reaches its retirement.



An enormous steam wash stall is particularly active at night. When vehicles come in for maintenance, the first step is to clean the underside and let it dry so mechanics can easily spot a problem.

Two pits service trucks (shown here)- Two stalls are exclusively for trash trucks



An hydraulic lift makes it easier to change the twelve tires on a trash truck and work on the underside of larger equipment



Ray Monson Sr., Facilities Operations Attendant, has been in the department for six years and keeps the shop environment well maintained on a daily basis.

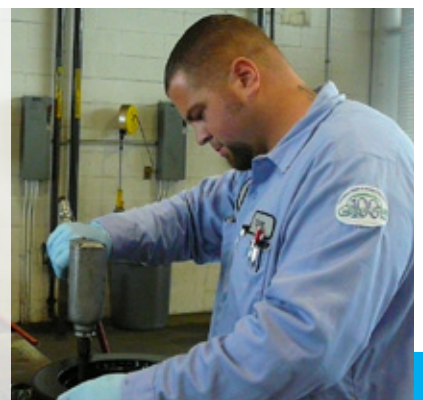


The Motorcycle Shop maintains all the Police Harleys and a few Kawasaki trainers. The Harleys will soon be replaced by Honda motorcycles.

Jorge Espinoza, Senior Mechanic, Arev Cinar, Senior Welder and Conrad Contreras, Senior Mechanic, team up to repair one of the City's trash trucks.



Equipment Attendant Tyler Knickerbocker performs preventative maintenance on the City's vehicles.



What Can We Tell You?

You could win a prize for your input!

Info-Bits is the Employee Newsletter for the City of Torrance. Our mission is to highlight City events and organizational accomplishments, recognize achievement and offer general information of interest to employees. This is your newsletter, how can we better serve your information needs? Give us your suggestions and constructive criticism and you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Email to JanetStancliff3@gmail.com and put "Info-Bits" in the subject line.

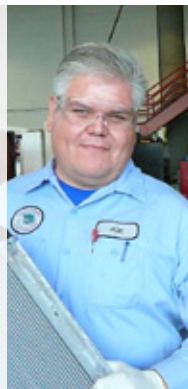
Fleet Services & City Warehouse

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Richard Jones explains that Sr. Mechanics not only work on the fire truck engines, but also repair all parts of the truck's water systems.

Joe Gonzalez, Senior Mechanic, prepares to replace a radiator.



Mechanic Jason Schwartz joins the office staff of Warehouse and Fleet; Clerk/Typists, Cindy Russell and Henrietta Morales, Staff Assistant, Beverly Gray and Secretary, Lisa LeDonne – absent is Melissa Sandoval, Delivery Driver/Clerk.



"The big picture for our Division also includes the City's commitment to environmental initiatives. Long term, we are pursuing a migration to alternative fuels that will reduce our carbon footprint in the community and lessen overall fossil fuel consumption" said Jasun Botiller, Fleet Services Manager.

Torrance Trivia

Torrance enjoys throwing a party. What has been the most popular form of celebrating city events?

- A. Parades
- B. Rodeos
- C. Dances
- D. Dinners
- E. All of the Above

Answer:

E, all the above. A good example is the dedication of the new civic center in 1956. There was a parade, rodeo, barbeque, band concert, community dance and more.

We had one correct answer from, Bill Kamimura – contact Myisha Phillips in HR to collect your prize.

NEW QUESTION

Wilson Park has been the home of stray cats, skunks, raccoons and the occasional runaway dog. In 2007 an Eagle Scout project installed homes to attract a very unique former resident. What where these homes supposed to attract?

Thanks to Michael George for these Trivia Questions and Answers. Email your answer to JanetStancliff3@gmail.com put "Torrance Trivia" in the subject line.

Health & Memory

Here are some tips to help protect and improve your memory:

- Eat complex carbohydrates at breakfast – your brain cells need carbs that convert to glucose in your body. Whole grains are digested slowly – try a whole grain muffin, a cup of berries and a scrambled egg to jump-start your gray matter.
- Exercise early in the day to increase blood flow to your brain.
- Strategy to remember where you parked – get out of your car and notice where you are parked, then move your eyes side-to-side every half second for thirty seconds while standing in place. Practicing this simple eye movement may increase your long-term memory by up to 10%.
- Floss before bed – good for your smile and can also prevent bacteria that causes inflammation to enter the bloodstream. Floss twice a day to keep absent-mindedness away.

Adapted from *Health Magazine*